

Open Space Preservation

Smart Growth protects open space, preserves public access to water bodies and integrates open space within neighborhoods, both for recreational pleasure and enhancement of communities' quality of life.

Case examples

- In Canton, Michigan, the Cherry Hill Village project featured a village square and a network of parks, greens, pedestrian-courtyards and vest-pocket parks. (For more information, go to <http://www.cnu.org>)
- Maryland's Rural Legacy Program creates "greenbelts" around the state's communities. The program provides \$29 million of state funds for county acquisition of large, contiguous tracts of farmland and forest preserves the remaining countryside from sprawl development, with the goal of saving up to 200,00 acres. (For more information, go to <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/rurallegacy/index.html>)
- In Long Island's Suffolk County, 1,110 acres of wilderness forest was acquired by the state and county to preserve the environmentally sensitive land. The forest is part of unique ecosystem and is located on top of Long Island's underground water supply. (For more information, go to <http://www.pinebarrens.org>)
- The Pine Barrens was established through TDRs, or Transfer of Development Rights, a legal process by which landowners who own property in designated conservation areas transfer ownership of their land to a government entity in exchange for the right to build in another location.
- Other conservation measurements include land trusts in which land or conservation easements are donated to private nonprofit conservation organizations. Open space may also be preserved through public purchase facilitated by bond acts. In the Town of North Hempstead in Nassau County, voters approved a \$15 million Environmental Legacy Fund slated for open space conservation, and restoration and protection of woodlands, wetlands, coastal and water areas. (For more information, go to <http://www.northhempstead.com>)